

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

**Duxbury Clipper**

## **Status Quo on Beach Sticker Policy**

By **KEITH L. MARTIN**

After hearing from the public and discussing beach access among its members, the Beach Committee is recommending no changes regarding over-sand stickers for Duxbury Beach.

At Wednesday's selectmen meeting, committee Chairman Joe Conway read a letter in which he indicated that the group felt both the Town of Duxbury and the Duxbury Beach Reservation are doing a good job managing resident and non-resident access to the beach, and therefore no changes need to be made.

This follows the selectmen's request for an open forum held October 22, where citizens and non-citizens mainly expressed their concerns over crowding at the beach.

Discussions at the forum were divided, however, with many Duxbury residents calling for a shift in the allotment of 500 over-sand stickers to favor town residents versus the 250 resident/250 non-resident ratio that currently exists.

Conway said that after this

lars, pay for the upkeep and maintenance of the beach.

Discussing the October 22 public meeting, Conway said that it was very well attended by representatives of Duxbury and surrounding towns and that most complaints surrounded the over-sand number of 500 vehicles and how more than that number of stickers are sold.

Beach Committee member Kay Foster added that the group looked at how it could expand area at the beach for vehicles, from moving poles to open more space, which the committee felt would be dangerous, to opening the third crossover, which has been repaired but still has plover nests nearby.

Foster also clarified a statement given by Jake Emerson of the Harbormaster's office at the October meeting that residents were turned away from Duxbury Beach for three hours. This number, said Foster, represents 2002, but in 2003 residents were turned away for 40 minutes: 20 minutes because the 250 limit was

condition of the beach was of great concerns to those attending the public meeting.

"It was kind of a selfish meeting in that no one was looking out for the condition of the beach, just whether or not they could get on," said Foster.

The group also discussed the selling of a yearly pass for parking at Blakemans, which could persuade residents and non-residents to park there versus going onto the beach with vehicles.

Foster said that Blakemans has around 1400 spots and that it only fills up two or three times a year.

Sullivan said she felt the Duxbury Beach Reservation was doing a fine job in its operation of daily parking at Blakemans and saw no need to change that operation or have the town take over sales for parking.

Foster also said she was unsure if it was a good idea to mail out information to non-residents that their sticker costs cover two-thirds of the beach's operations in their renewal packet.

November 6 Beach  
Committee meeting to discuss  
issues raised at the forum, the  
committee was recommend-  
ing no changes in sticker  
prices, numbers sold, nor the  
ratio allowed on the beach at  
one time.

"The committee is com-  
mitted to further discussion on  
the topic in the future should  
the need arise," said Conway.

He did, however, offer sug-  
gestions from the committee  
to help congestion problems  
at the beach and ease both res-  
ident and non-resident con-  
cerns expressed in October.

One such suggestion was  
to encourage the use of the  
northern pavilion parking lot  
off Gurnet Road by way of a  
pass system or selling a book  
of tickets to park for the sea-  
son, versus the current daily  
practice. The lot, known by  
some as Blakeman's after for-  
mer resident Ralph Blakeman,  
is formally known as Duxbury  
Beach Park.

The committee also recom-  
mended signage be located at  
the Ashdod fire station and the  
Duxbury Police Station to  
indicate beach closures and  
avoid backup at the Powder  
Point Bridge.

Lastly, the committee rec-  
ommended that written infor-  
mation be mailed out with  
sticker renewal packages to  
clarify the rules and regula-  
tions of the beach, as well as  
educate people on who the  
stakeholders are and how  
sticker revenue, not tax dol-

car was stuck.  
Selectmen Chairwoman  
Elizabeth Sullivan asked if the

Manger Rocco Longo. "They  
are aware of that fact."